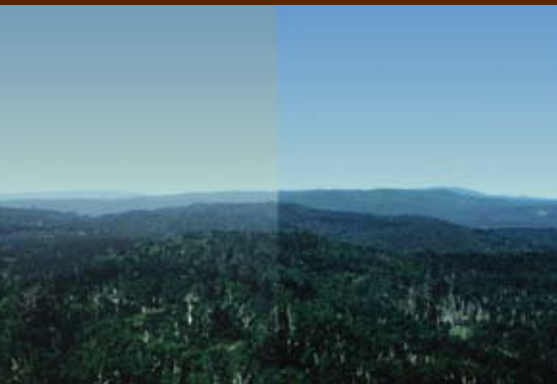




## Victory for Clean Air

By Nathan Miller, Air Quality Analyst

The air we see when visiting Voyageurs and Isle Royale National Parks will soon be clearer and cleaner thanks to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



As required by the Clean Air Act, EPA recently issued a rule limiting pollution from seven industrial facilities located in northern Minnesota and Michigan. The plants manufacture pellets used in steel-making from taconite, a form of iron ore.

Historically, the taconite industry has been under-regulated to the point where it was

continued on back page

**Above:** The “haze cam” at Isle Royale shows how a visitor’s view is affected by pollution levels on bad and good air quality days. © NPS **Top:** Lake Michigan Winter Shoreline ©Dean Pennala/Dreamstime.com

## Hurricane Sandy: After the Storm

**W**hen Hurricane Sandy breached the Atlantic coast in late October, it hammered nearly 70 national park sites, including all 15 in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. From Gateway National Recreation Area’s Sandy Hook, to St. Paul’s Church National Historic Site in Mt. Vernon in New York, to Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey, Superstorm Sandy spared little in her path. Although many national parks along the coast are now open to visitors, at least a half-dozen parks, including the Statue of Liberty will remain closed indefinitely.

Examples of substantial damage include the Statue of Liberty, where mechanical systems were flooded and destroyed; Sandy Hook in Gateway which was inundated by the storm; and Fire Island, which saw severe erosion all along its length. Ellis Island, Governor’s Island, Castle Clinton, Paterson Falls, and other sites in the region experienced flooding, significant damage to mechanical systems, the destruction of park buildings, and considerable landscape damage. Farther west, waves as high as 20-feet were reported in the Great Lakes region and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore experienced hurricane-related damages—including dozens of downed trees and waves that washed away several thousand grass “plugs” that the Park Service had planted to help stabilize the dunes.

“We had an impressive display of the remnants of Hurricane Sandy,” says Bruce Rowe, Supervisory Park Ranger at Indiana Dunes, “but we realize how fortunate we are not to have experienced the horrific damage that the communities and national park’s along the Atlantic coast suffered.”

Already understaffed, the Park Service still managed to relocate hundreds of rangers from parks across the country—including a contingent from Scotts Bluff National Monument in Nebraska—to assist with clean-up efforts.

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**Above:** Incident Management Team members clean up debris from the western edge of Liberty Island. ©NPS/Daley

# FIELD REPORT

Winter 2013

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## Viewpoint: National Parks Teeter on the Edge of Fiscal Cliff

Mike Zechmeister, Midwest Regional Council

**W**ith fiscal cliff negotiations and implications grabbing daily headlines, there has been very little mentioned about the potentially damaging loss of funding for America's national parks.

The National Park Service operates America's 398 national park units and has endured a six percent budget cut over the past two years. These are parks ranging from Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota to Grand Canyon in Arizona. Our national parks are not just scenic beauties that protect our natural and cultural heritage but also economic assets that draw visitors and spending from around the world.

If Congress cannot agree on a budget, the Park Service faces immediate funding cuts of as much as 10 percent. As a result, our national parks face a serious threat to ongoing operations and protection. The cuts would result in fewer rangers to address park needs and to respond to emergencies. Historic buildings could suffer damage. Campgrounds and visitor centers and even some park units may need to close. In Minnesota, where I live, park units such as the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and the

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway would likely be forced to eliminate beneficial programs and initiatives that rely on seasonal rangers.

While Congress debates taxes and spending, one thing is clear—the Park Service is not the cause nor is it the solution to our fiscal issues. Park Service spending represents only one fourteenth of one percent of the federal budget, yet supports more than a quarter-million jobs each year. Every dollar invested in park operations generates about \$10 in economic activity. Every two Park Service jobs yields one job in the communities around the park. Our national parks are priceless, iconic places that capture our history and culture and protect America's natural resources. They don't deserve to be sacrificed as a part of broader austerity measures.

The American public agrees. Recent bipartisan polling found that 92 percent of all voters believe that federal spending on national parks should be increased or held flat. We must protect our national parks and the jobs that they produce. We call on Congress and the President to find a more balanced solution to our deficit problem that does not place these national treasures at risk.

**Below:** Mike Zechmeister at Grand Canyon National Park. ©M. Zechmeister





## Connecting the Arch to the City

### PARK UPDATE

The work to transform the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis continues due to the more than \$100 million raised to date from federal, state, local, and private sources to fund the \$380 million dollar project at this great urban national park. World-renowned landscape architect, Michael Van Valkenburg, is currently focusing on the “park over the highway” that will finally connect the Arch to the city, by “bridging” the highway with green space.

Construction on new pathways and spaces for entertainment and visitor orientation are underway.

New, interactive exhibits will tell the story of Westward Expansion in exciting, interactive ways. This will be the first update and expansion for the museum since it opened in 1976.

“We are forging new connections between the Mighty Mississippi, the Gateway Arch, and the greater region, in order to create experiences under the Arch that are as memorable as the iconic structure itself.”

says Maggie Hales, Executive Director of the CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation, managing partner on the project.

The project is on track for completion by the fall of 2015 in time for the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Arch. Check out the plans at [www.cityarchriver.org](http://www.cityarchriver.org).

**Below:** Current view from the Old Courthouse looking toward the Arch grounds (left photo) and View of 2015 the new park over the highway and museum entrance in 2015 (right photo). ©CityArchRiver



## Secretary Salazar Visits Indiana Dunes

The weather at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was perfect for Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar's August visit. He and Senator Richard Durbin stopped by the park during the Secretary's four-state tour of the Midwest to highlight the President's America's Great Outdoors initiatives. Superintendent, Costa Dillon led the park tour at this Great Lakes park, pointing out that Indiana Dunes hosts more than 2 million visitors annually, generating \$64 million in visitor spending and supporting more than 650 jobs.

**Right:** Secretary Ken Salazar (center) with Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) (right) Superintendent Costa Dillon (left). ©NPS.



# Lincoln Lore

By Nathan Miller, Air Quality Analyst

The Academy Award-nominated movie *Lincoln* has recently reinvigorated our fascination with the 16th President, blending history with drama, winning accolades and box office receipts along the way. But how does it stack up to the renowned National Park Service depictions of the Great Emancipator? We've pulled together a chart that compares Hollywood's latest tribute to the Park Service's longstanding devotion to Lincoln's story...

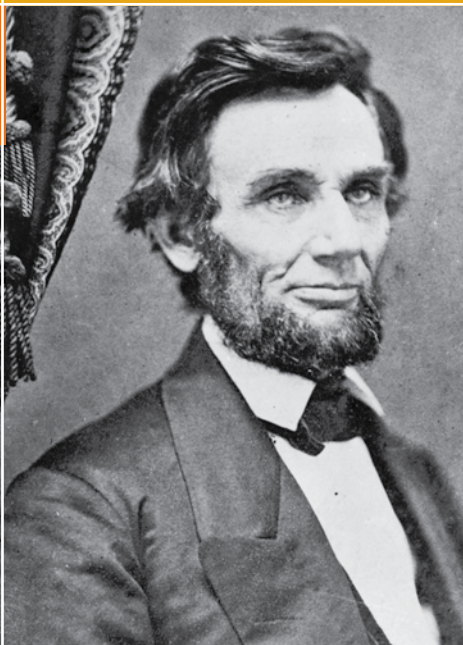
## HOW DOES *LINCOLN* STACK UP TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DEPICTIONS OF THE GREAT EMANCIPIATOR?

	<i>Lincoln</i> , the movie	Lincoln, The Great Emanipator
<b>Locations</b>	✓ 2,000+ theaters nationwide	Six national parks dedicated to Lincoln's life, plus more than 150 sites that portray the Civil War – where Lincoln had at least a cameo role.
<b>Staying Power</b>	Not yet out on Netflix.	✓ Etched in stone at Mt. Rushmore. Need we say more?
<b>Historical Accuracy</b>	Mostly factual – occasional creative license	✓ Just the facts.
<b>Timespan</b>	Covers the period just after Lincoln's reelection until his death.	✓ From Lincoln's birth to his death—and his enduring legacy
<b>The Human Element</b>	✓ Daniel Day-Lewis' performance lends relatable humor, compassion, conflict, and warmth to Lincoln's myriad roles.	✓ With a great park ranger as your guide, Lincoln comes to life!
<b>Audience Impact</b>	~12 million & climbing as of mid-December 2012.	✓ Almost 400 million have visited the six main Lincoln sites.
<b>Cost</b>	\$8 per ticket (national average – not including popcorn & drinks!)	✓ (Mostly) Free. Some sites charge a small entry fee, but you can see most of them for the price of gas or a train ticket to get there!

## Winner: Our National Park Service!

Unlike another recent movie using Lincoln's name (the infamous *Abraham Lincoln*, *Vampire Hunter*, for example), both *Lincoln* the movie and the National Park Service offer compelling, human portrayals of the President that will continue to spark and stir the interest of our nation. Will there be a *Lincoln*-related attendance bump at the Park Service's Lincoln sites? Only time will tell.

Abraham Lincoln, last portrait sitting in Springfield, Illinois, before leaving for Washington, D.C., to assume the presidency  
© Library of Congress



# NPCA Canoeing for Youth

By Christine Goepfert,  
Upper Midwest Program Manager

On Saturday, September 15th, NPCA and a team of volunteers boarded a 24-foot Voyageur canoe and raced 19 other teams on the Mississippi River in the second annual Great River Race. The race raises funds for Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA), an outdoor education program that gets more than 10,000 young people into their neighborhood national park—in this case, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area—each year. The UWCA is a joint program between Wilderness Inquiry and the National Park Service.



“Many UWCA participants don't have access to high-quality programs like this,” says Paul Labovitz, superintendent of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. “When we get kids out on the river, we see lives transformed. We introduce them to the national park that runs through their city, and we introduce them to new ways of thinking about themselves, their communities, and their world.”

“When we get kids out on the river, we see lives transformed.”

Even though NPCA didn't win the race, it helped raise money for this great program so that more city kids have the opportunity to experience their nearest national park.

**Above:** Team NPCA on the Mississippi River in the national park. ©T. Woodward/Wilderness



## Historic Landscape Restored

By Erin Denney-Thompson,  
Midwest Coordinator

**T**hanks to a recent restoration project, visitors can now experience the historic landscape on Quincy Hill at Keweenaw National Historical Park as copper miners once did. Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula was home to one of our nation's first mineral rushes. Prospectors seeking copper traveled there in the middle 1840s, a few years before the "49'ers" sought gold out west. The story of this rush is told today at Keweenaw National Historical Park, and Quincy Hill is named after the Quincy Mining Company that operated the copper mines.

The Quincy Hill landscape renewal project was a collaborative effort between the National Park Service and the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO).

A large telecommunications tower once stood on Quincy Hill, but has now been removed through the joint efforts of these two groups.

The Park Service and UPPCO worked together to ensure restoration of the site to its historic conditions, paying particular attention to the preservation of the geologic formation on which the tower itself stood. Following careful planning, workers removed the tower and all equipment related to the tower's operation.

"It was a pleasure to work with the Park Service," says UPPCO Customer Service Manager Jay Ringler. "It was a good cooperative effort all around." Keweenaw Superintendent Mike Pflaum added, "The restoration of the historic Quincy Hill landscape is another great example of the work that can be accomplished with



Partners in Preservation."

The Quincy Hill site now provides a more authentic experience as well as a higher level of safety for visitors to the Quincy Mining Company Dryhouse Ruins.

**Above:** Quincy Round House at Keweenaw.  
© Dan Johnson, NPS

Hurricane Sandy  
hammered nearly  
70 national park sites,  
including all 15 in the  
New York/New Jersey  
metropolitan area.

## After the Storm

continued from front page

Recent legislation passed the House that will provide disaster relief for communities, businesses, and national parks, including \$398 million for rebuilding storm-damaged national parks.

The bill's \$150 million for Department of the Interior departmental operations (p. 68) is needed to restore and rebuild parks, increase their resiliency to withstand and reduce the damage of future storms, and assist local, state and tribal governments.

The park service keeps us up to date on their efforts to restore parks that were damaged by the storm on Facebook. There are pictures of the damage and of the many park rangers and volunteers working to reopen parks to visitors. Just search for "hurricane response NPS" to get to the page.

**Above:** Hurricane Sandy damage at Liberty Island.  
©NPS/Daley



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## Join NPCA in the Parks

**April 20 to April 26, 2013**

### **Utah Canyonlands**

Experience the beauty and diversity of the Southwest Canyonlands on this active adventure small group journey. Check out the trip webinar for an inside look into this amazing spring journey.

**June 1 to June 10, 2013**

### **Parks of the World: Galapagos Islands**

This year's study tour takes you aboard the 48 passenger National Geographic Islander with Lindblad Expeditions to the Galápagos Islands, where 97 percent of the land is protected by a national park.

**July 20 to July 27, 2013**

### **Isle Royale Wilderness Sojourn**

Isle Royale National Park is a road-less wilderness island accessible only by boat or float plane. Visitors will get an insider's look at the World's longest-running wolf/moose study, as well as explore two historical sites in Northern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

*For more information on NPCA's ParkScapes Travel program visit [www.npca.org/travel](http://www.npca.org/travel) or call 800.628.7275*

## Victory for Clean Air

continued from front page

difficult to set pollution limits because so little was known about existing emissions. Yet the haze in the air at our national parks that is caused by this industry is measurable.

For the past several years, NPCA and our members have been very involved in trying to get adequate regulation of the taconite industry, including pollution controls, through state and federal processes like the Regional Haze Rule, a law requiring cleaner air in large national parks and wilderness areas.

The benefits to Voyageurs and Isle Royale National Parks are significant. For example, a difference of about 0.5 - 1 deciview (dv), a scale measuring visibility, represents a change that is perceptible to the human eye. EPA estimates that the total estimated visibility improvement from the final rule is about 28 dv, including 6.6 dv at Voyageurs National Park, and 8.7 dv at Isle Royale. On some days, these improvements will more than double how far you can see.

Thanks to the EPA for helping protect our national parks.